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LB 568A

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't know if I think an 85 percent cut is a reasonable compromise. How reasonable can you get? 85 percent or almost 90 percent? I guess if I have to make a choice, I will say no to everything for the teachers because they have already got a degree in college. They are already out making a living. This is for the people...first I get up and speak for the ones that have got the intelligence to go to college and I say give them the money for the scholarships. Now I get up and I say those that do not have that mental capability that this is the only way they can go to learn a trade, to gain the knowledge to at least be productive, so I speak for them. At least I am not prejudiced against the super intelligent or those who are not super intelligent. But if you want to sacrifice young men and young women for middle-aged young teachers who have already got their education, who are already leading productive lives, who already have the world by the tail, I don't think I can do it, because this is the future we are talking about and these people have a place in our society. And I can't cut them short and say, well, I want to give a good raise to the teachers, yes, I want to do that. But I guess I have got to look at my priorities. By golly, there goes any help I was going to get from the NSEA. But you know, I don't know what the NSEA would do for me in my campaign, if they would give me \$50, a \$100 or \$500, but I really don't care because these kids mean something more to me than a campaign donation. So I would just say my priority is with those who have nothing and who only want the chance to learn a little more and be able to stand up straight and be on their own. I think I would entertain a compromise but, my goodness, 85 percent cut. That is a joke when you talk about compromise. I think I will just let that hang there in my mind and debate to myself, do I really want to sacrifice these young people for the teachers who are already endowed with a fine education? I wonder if the teachers would be that selfish. They say they have been giving of themselves for years by working for low wages. I wonder if the teachers were here if they would go along with this, or if they would say, no, every mind needs to be developed to its fullest extent even if it doesn't have the ability to go to